

First U. S. palladium coin may be coming

By Roger Boye

By year's end Uncle Sam could be producing the country's first palladium coin—as well as some special silver pieces—if legislation in Congress becomes law.

At least 23 of the 100 senators are co-sponsoring the proposal, according to a spokesman for Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who introduced the legislation last month. A similar bill in the U.S. House had 15 co-sponsors on April 12.

Under the legislation, U.S. Mint officials would sell to collectors:

- Up to 350,000 coins made of palladium—a precious silver-white metal of the platinum group—and up to one million silver dollars. Both coin types would commemorate the centennials in 1989 or 1990 of six western states.

- Annual proof sets containing a dime, quarter and half dollar made with 90 percent silver and

10 percent copper. The government last produced such silver proof sets in 1964 (copper-nickel clad coinage was introduced in 1965).

The Senate passed a palladium coin bill last year, but the measure died after it failed to clear the U.S. House.

Federal workers are selling to collectors uncut sheets of \$1 Federal Reserve notes, series 1988, bearing the signature of Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady, who took office last year.

A 32-note sheet costs \$47; 16 notes, \$28; and four notes, \$10.25. To order, send a money order or cashier's check to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Public Sales Room 602-11A, 14th and C Streets S.W., Washington, D.C. 20228. Allow at least eight weeks for delivery.

The larger sheets are framed in a black cardboard mat that can be put on a wall. The four-note sheet is sold in a special folder.

At least 20 coin dealers will do business at the Mundein Coin Club's annual show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday at the Holiday Inn near the intersection of U.S. Highway 45 and state Route 83.

Also next Sunday, 20 other dealers will sell coins, bullion and baseball cards at the annual show of the Schaumburg Numismatic Society. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 860 W. Irving Park Road in Itasca. Admission is free to both shows.

New silver dollars commemorating a 1789 canoe expedition from northern Alberta to the Arctic are on sale in Canada. Each 1989-dated coin contains .375 of an ounce of silver; a proof specimen costs \$18.80 and an uncirculated dollar, \$13.90. To order, send a check to the Royal Canadian Mint, Box 457, Station A, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 9H3.